

## Message Text

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61

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 126474

R 220500Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9596

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, ID, LA

SUBJECT: ASEAN INTEREST IN LAOS

1. DURING COURTESY CALL OF INDONESIAN CHARGE SOETIDJAB SOEKADIS, JUNE 21, I SAID WE HAD NOTED ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING COMMUNIQUE WHICH REPORTED DECISION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LAOS. WE WERE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT THIS NE-TAILED AND WHAT FOLLOW UP WAS BEING GIVEN TO THIS DECISION. SOEKADIS ANSWERED THAT MATTER HAD LONG BEEN DISCUSSED IN ASEAN CIRCLES. INITIALLY, PROPOSAL WAS TO PROVIDE AID TO ALL OF INDOCHINA BUT IN VIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES, MINISTERS HAD FINALLY DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH ASSISTANCE TO LAOS ALONE. THE ACTUAL PROGRAM WOULD BE FORMULATED AT A MEETING OF SENIOR ASEAN OFFICIALS WHICH WOULD BE HELD IN SINGAPORE SOON.

2. IN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT SOEKADIS ATTACHED A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DRV WOULD MAINTAIN A PREPONDERANT INFLUENCE OVER PATHET LAO OR WHETHER USSR AND/OR PRC WOULD ALSO BE INFLUENTIAL. IN  
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HIS VIEW THIS QUESTION WAS IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA. INDONESIAN EXPERIENCE WITH DRV HAD LED THEM TO CONCLUDE THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS SINGULARLY CLOSED, NARROW-MINDED AND UNCOOPERATIVE. DRV INSISTED ON BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AND HAD INFORMALLY INDICATED IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT ASEAN AID BECAUSE IT WAS MULTI-LATERAL. SOEKADIS FELT THAT PATHET LAO UNDER CHINESE AND RUSSIAN INFLUENCE WOULD BE MUCH MORE OPEN AND AMENABLE TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

3. COMMENT: ASEAN ASSISTANCE TO LAOS WOULD BE GOOD FOR LAOS BECAUSE IT WOULD BRING AN ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE INTO COUNTRY; GOOD FOR ASEAN BECAUSE IT WOULD HELP PROVE ITSELF AS A WORKING ORGANIZATION; AND GOOD FOR U.S. BECAUSE IT WOULD BRING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SOUVANNA'S POLICY OF RECONCILIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ASEAN POSTS COULD DISCREETLY INQUIRE INTO STATUS OF PROPOSED AID TO LAOS AND POSSIBLY NUDGE IT FORWARD.  
CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974VIENTI04931  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASEAN INTEREST IN LAOS  
**TAGS:** EAID, PFOR, ID, LA, ASEAN, (SOETIDJAB SOEKADIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005